Central Status to Universities in M.P.

†702. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have refused the proposal of Government of Madhya Pradesh for granting Central Status to Bhopal University, Sagar University and Rewa University;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, states that the main emphasis will be on consolidation of facilities rather than on their expansion. Given the necessity to arrest the declining trend in the flow of plan funds from the UGC to state universities and colleges, the severe constraint of resources and the need to provide adequate infrastructure in newer Central Universities established in the North-East, the Government is not in a position to consider the proposal for according Central University status to Bhopal, Sagar and Rewa Universities at present.

Gender Gap

703. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent Report of the World Economic Forum on gender gap which places India at 53rd position amongst 58 countries;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that this is primarily due to invisibility of women's contribution to the economy as their contributory work done especially in agricultural operations, forest-related activities in hills, substaining family network, household chores, etc. is not counted for economic value; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not evolving modalities whereby such contributions are duly counted for economic value?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the information given by the Department of Statistics, the National Accounts Statistics released by the CSO are complied in accordance with the methodology recommended in the System of National Accounts (SNA) of the United Nations. The GDP estimates of the country include the economic activities carried out by various institutional sectors, irrespective of whether they are organized or unorganized or produced by women or men, so long as the activities fall under the production boundary of the national accounts. These economic activities include goods produced for own account, consumption in respect of agriculture and allied activities.

National Sample Survey Organisation in 1998-99 conducted a Time Use Survey, which identified that most of the household work performed by women generally remain unaccounted for the purpose of female workers' contribution in the national development and GPD.

Uniform entrance examination for professional courses

704. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry would evolve a method for the selection of the candidates for admission to various professional courses through a single entrance examination or by facing common assessment procedure instead of separate entrance tests for each course;

(b) whether there is any proposal for suggesting a uniform selection procedure to be adopted by all the States for admission to professional courses; and

(c) what is the procedure adopted in selecting candidates for admission for the Central Government quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Central Government.

(c) There is no Central Government quota for admissions to professional courses.